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Main Entry: **op·tion·al**   
Pronunciation: 'äp-shn&l, -sh&-n&l  
Function: *adjective*  
: involving an **option** : not compulsory  
- **op·tion·al·i·ty**  /"äp-sh&- 'na-l&-tE/ *noun*  
- **op·tion·al·ly** *adverb*

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option

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Main Entry: **1option** ◄

Pronunciation: 'äp-sh&amp;n

Function: *noun*

Etymology: French, from Latin *option-*, *optio* free choice; akin to Latin *optare* to choose

**1** : an act of choosing

**2 a** : the power or right to choose : freedom of choice **b** : a privilege of demanding fulfillment of a contract on any day within a specified time **c** : a contract conveying a right to buy or sell designated securities, commodities, or property interest at a specified price during a stipulated period; *also* : the right conveyed by an option **d** : a right of an insured person to choose the form in which payments due on a policy shall be made or applied

**3** : something that may be chosen: as **a** : an alternative course of action <didn't have many *options* open> **b** : an item that is offered in addition to or in place of standard equipment

**4** : an offensive football play in which a back may choose whether to pass or run with the ball -- called also *option play*  
**synonym** see CHOICE

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